

AUGUST 26, 2016

City Council Newsletter



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Two Park Renovation Projects Begin in Late August

City of Eugene Parks and Open Space is preparing to begin two park renovation projects this month at Maurie Jacobs Park and Bethel Community Park.

Maurie Jacobs Park will receive a new sand play area including a sand play table and digger. Last year, the playground surface at Maurie Jacobs Park, as well as that at many other city parks, were converted from sand to wood chips to meet new national safety standards for fall surfaces under play equipment. Public response to the change was positive, but park users also let staff know that they still want some sand in their park, particularly for babies and toddlers. By popular demand, Parks and Open Space Planning staff designed a new sand area that will be adjacent to the playground. Nearby shrubs will also be removed for improved safety.



Maurie Jacobs Park visitors will be able to enjoy sand play again! (Park shown above prior to conversion to wood chips for safety purposes)

Construction at Maurie Jacobs Park began August 22, and is expected to be complete by the end of September. The playground will remain open throughout the project, but visitors are asked to be alert near the work zone, and to watch for equipment crossing the bike path.



Along with installation of new playground equipment in the sand area, visitors will find new swings for children of all ages.

The Bethel Community Park improvement project is scheduled to begin on August 29 with completion by the end of September. Children playing in the sand area will discover a new sand and water feature, sand play table, tot spinners, and a tot sand play cottage. New swings will be installed in the wood chip area, as well. The upgrades are designed to meet current safety standards, and to upgrade aging equipment. Two additional wind chime sculptures, purchased as part of the original project, will also be installed. During the month-long construction process, the entire sand area will be closed, as well as the wood chip area near the swings.

For more information, contact Parks and Open Space Landscape Designer Pay Symond at pamela.s.symond@ci.eugene.or.us, or call (541) 682-4913.

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City Seeks Community Input on Multi-family Housing Options



In preparation for adopting a new urban growth boundary (UGB), the City is asking for community input on key decisions that will help determine how Eugene will grow over the next 20 years. Over the next several months, Planning staff will be collecting feedback on key decisions through online questionnaires, at community events throughout the city, and at community drop-in sessions.

One of the key decisions focuses on how Eugene will accommodate needed multi-family housing, which includes housing types like apartments, condos, duplexes, and townhouses. A new video and online questionnaire on options to accommodate Eugene's multi-family housing needs over the next 20 years has been posted at www.EnvisionEugene.org for community members to review and respond to. The questionnaire will be available through the summer, and the information collected will be provided to the City Council this fall to help inform their discussions.

In addition to the online questionnaire, community members can learn more and provide their feedback in the following ways:

- Visit the Envision Eugene booth at upcoming summer events such as Sunday Streets and First Friday.
- Invite the Envision Eugene Team to Neighborhood meetings and picnics or attend an already scheduled event. A current meeting and event schedule is here: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/2990/Get-Involved>
- Attend one of the drop-in sessions scheduled for September 13th and 21st at the City of Eugene Atrium Building from 4-6pm. Planners will be available to answer questions on specific topics related to adopting our UGB, including the multi-family housing options, the areas proposed for expanding the UGB, and new comprehensive plan policies to guide growth in Eugene.
- Visit the City's website, www.EnvisionEugene.org that includes draft documents for adopting our new UGB.
- Request an in person meeting, or have a planner come to a group meeting by emailing envisioneugene@ci.eugene.or.us. Community members can also send an email to sign up for our newsletter to get project updates.

Upcoming questionnaires will focus on new land use policies for the city and the proposed urban growth boundary expansion areas. See <http://www.eugene-or.gov/2980/Whats-New>.

Over the next 20 years, as Eugene's population grows, about 15,100 new homes will be needed. Approximately 90% of those homes will fit on currently vacant or underdeveloped land across the city. The City is seeking input on how to accommodate the remaining 1,600 medium and higher-density homes that space is need for.

The online video and information, posted on the Envision Eugene website, describe the range of options available. Options that seem most likely to succeed based on the timeline and technical feasibility include:

- Accommodating about 1,000 high density homes downtown by continuing existing programs and development incentives for higher density apartment buildings.
- Amending the zoning code to allow only attached housing on existing land that is zoned and planned for multi-family housing. Typical detached single-family housing would no longer be allowed, which would raise the average number of homes built in these zones.
- Alternatively, amending the zoning code to require a higher minimum number of homes be built in multi-family zones.

Another option the City is seeking input on is the "key corridor" strategy of adding more housing along our key transportation corridors. In order to achieve more housing and provide capacity for the 1,600 homes in these areas, the City would need to take action to show that more development is likely to occur in the future, including adopting development incentives in one or more of these corridors.

There are many pieces required to adopt a new UGB, multi-family housing is one piece. Planning staff will be publishing information on each component of the urban growth boundary adopting package throughout the summer. More information and background on the Envision Eugene process, technical analysis, and community involvement are available at www.EnvisionEugene.org. For more information contact Laura Hammond, laura.a.hammond@ci.eugene.or.us, (541) 682-6021.



Bicycle Advisory Committee Shifts Gears to Focus on Transportation

The Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has changed its name to the Active Transportation Committee. Active transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation – walking, cycling, using a mobility device, in-line skating or skateboarding. People engage in active transportation in many ways, whether it is walking to the bus stop, or biking to school or work. Because transit users begin or end their trips on foot or bike, transit is considered an active mode, too.



Eugene's Active Transportation Committee advises staff on implementation of the City's Transportation System Plan and Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan. Functions and charges of the Active Transportation Committee include:

- Assist in the development and implementation of walking and biking projects and programs.
- Review and comment on changes to planning and policy documents where they relate to active transportation.
- Provide input on benchmarks and review associated data to monitor and document the implementation of walking and biking projects.
- Assist in the development and dissemination of pedestrian and bicycle safety awareness and education materials to the community.
- Review and make recommendations on walking and biking funding priorities.
- Serve as volunteers to assist Transportation Planning staff at public events that promote active transportation.

The Eugene Active Transportation Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium Building Sloat Room at 99 W. 10th Avenue. The public is welcome to attend and provide comments to the committee at the beginning of each meeting. Committee members are selected by Transportation Planning staff to serve two year terms. Committee members must reside inside Eugene's Urban Growth Boundary. For more information about the Active Transportation Committee, visit their web site <http://www.eugene-or.gov/490/Committees> or contact staff liaison Lee Shoemaker at (541) 682-5471 or lee.shoemaker@ci.eugene.or.us.

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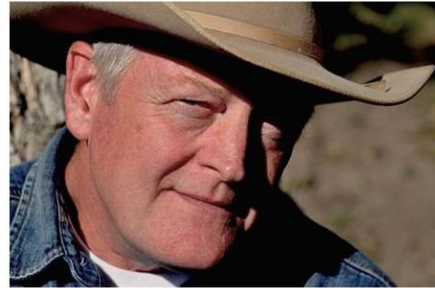


"Longmire" Author Craig Johnson at the Eugene Public Library

Live in Eugene: Craig Johnson - a New York Times bestselling author of the "Longmire" novels that inspired the hit Netflix series! Johnson will give a talk on Saturday, August 27, 2:00 p.m. at the Downtown Eugene Public Library. Admission is free.

Johnson's popular and critically-acclaimed mystery novels feature down-to-earth hero Walt Longmire, sheriff of the least populated county in Wyoming, which is the least populated state in America.

Craig Johnson will talk about his novels, his experience of having them adapted to television, and his latest book "The Highwayman." He will also share a "sneak peek" excerpt from his soon-to-be-published "An Obvious Fact," the next in the series.



Books will be available for purchase and signing courtesy at the University of Oregon Duck Store. For more information, contact Eugene Public Library at (541) 682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

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Two Projects Underway in Wild Iris Ridge Park in Southwest Eugene



In one project, a new segment of the Ridgeline Trail is under construction. A local Northwest Youth Corps crew has been working under contract for the Parks and Open Space Division since mid-July, building the multi-use trail. The new trail will add over one mile to an existing gravel road creating a 2.5 mile loop at this large but relatively less well-known park in southwest Eugene. The crew has been using hand tools for trail excavation, stump and boulder removal, has built several low stone retaining walls, dug footings for a 60' boardwalk and is currently working on a large raised trail section with log edging. A grand opening celebration will be held once the work is completed, currently scheduled for November. For more information contact Parks and Open Space Planner Pamela Symond at (541) 682-4913 or pamela.s.symond@ci.eugene.or.us.

The second project builds upon work started in 2015 to begin restoring oak savanna and woodland habitat in the southern Willamette Valley. Working in close partnership with the Long Tom Watershed Council under a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, conservation foresters will oversee the selective removal of invading Douglas-fir, regenerating oaks, and other small diameter trees to open up the tree canopy to support growth and reproduction of oaks and other savanna plants and animals. Scientists estimate that less than seven percent of oak woodland and two percent of oak savannah remain from what was present in the 1850s.



More information about this and other projects of its type is available in a newly developed outreach brochure here (<http://rivers2ridges.org/willamette-valley-oaks-yesterday-and-today/>). Please be aware that parts of the site will be off limits to the public during operations for safety purposes. For more information contact Parks and Open Space Ecologist Emily Steel at (541) 682-4874 or emily.c.steel@ci.eugene.or.us.

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Links to Eugene City Council Resources

[Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)



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